

Strategic Plan Ability Alliance of West Alabama 2009-2011

Bibb Pickens Tuscaloosa
Prepared by Ability Alliance
of West Alabama
2/19/09

Overview of Plan

- History of Ability Alliance of West Alabama
- Overview of Planning Process
 - Local
 - Regional and State Planning
- Description of individuals served
- FY 2006-2008 Planning Priorities
- Overview of Services
- Progress on Planning Priorities
- Challenges for future
- Priorities of 2009-2011

Ability Alliance of West Alabama (AAWA) History

- 310 Board authorized by Act 310 of the Alabama State Legislature
- Purpose of the Boards are to coordinate services for individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse needs
- AAWA incorporated in 1994 to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities
- At the time of incorporation the organization did business as the Tuscaloosa Mental Retardation Authority
- Board is appointed by City of Northport, Tuscaloosa and County of Tuscaloosa
- In 2003 Indian Rivers Board ask the organization to manage case management services in Bibb and Pickens county

Other Activities of the organization

- Management of grants
 - Transportation
 - Safety in Homes and Community
 - Partners with a Twist
- Current grants include
 - Transportation
 - Job Access Reverse Commute
 - New Freedom

Functions of AAWA

- Single Point of entry into services for individuals served by the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (mental retardation division, now known as Division of Intellectual Disabilities)
- Case Management
- Waiting list management and criticality of service determination
- Strategic Planning for services and support
- Service development
- Medicaid waiver enrollment and monitoring
- Management of sub-contracts for waiver services
 - Arc of Tuscaloosa (to end this year)
 - UCP of West Alabama (to end this year)
 - Self-Directed Waiver services

Strategic Planning

- We are asked to develop a local plan for services as the 310 for Bibb Pickens and Tuscaloosa every two years.
- We developed a plan in October 2006 for two years.
- DMH-MR accepted our plan from 2006-2008
- We updated the plan in December of 2007 for 2009 for the purpose of regional planning and state planning for 2010-2012
- There were regional planning sessions that led to the development of a regional and state plan

Priorities- Local Planning October 2006-2008

- Transportation
- Hourly Supports
- Supported Employment
- Community Membership
- Transition
- Parent Education

How are these priorities included in the state plans for services?

- The local priorities are utilized in a regional planning session to discuss regional goals
- These goals were provided to the Department's planning sub-committee for intellectual disabilities

Regional Goals for 2010-2012

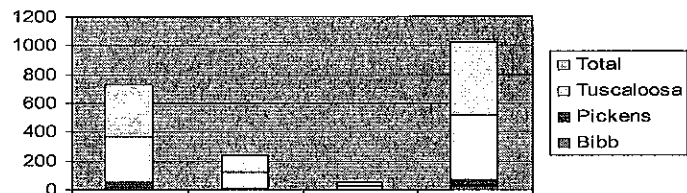
- Develop/Enhance Transportation to increase inclusion of individuals receiving services
- Expand choice options for employment and other culturally valued activities volunteerism, advocacy
- Expand housing choices to provide individuals self-directed, safe, affordable, accessible housing that optimized opportunity for community inclusion

State Goals/Objectives

- Waiting List services-600 people
- Employment services
- Participation in interagency transportation planning at the state, regional and local level

Who do we Serve?

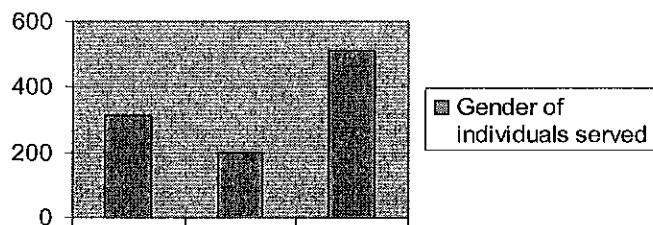
Casemanagement and Follow along services



	Waiver	CMO	FA	Total
Total	365	120	27	512
Tuscaloosa	312	109	23	444
Pickens	35	4	0	39
Bibb	18	7	4	29

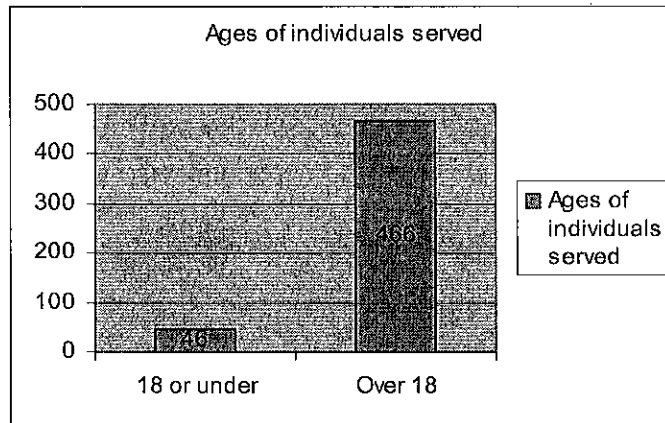
Who are the people we serve?

Gender of individuals served

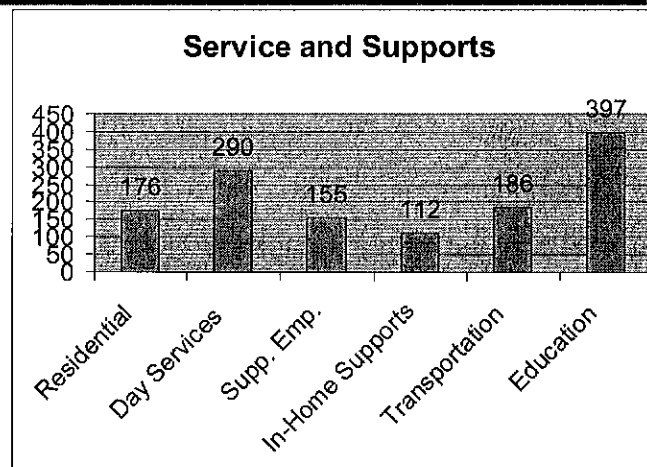


	Male	Female	Total
Gender of individuals served	313	199	512

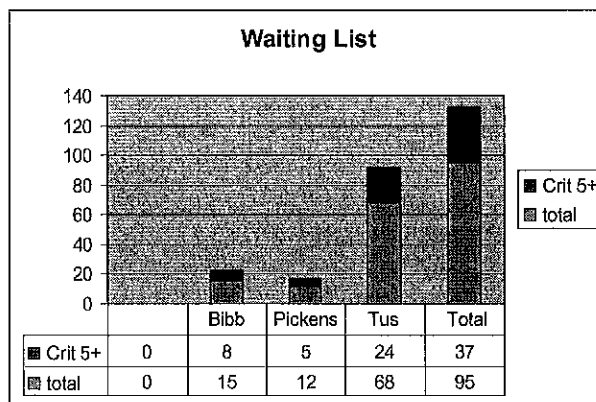
People Served



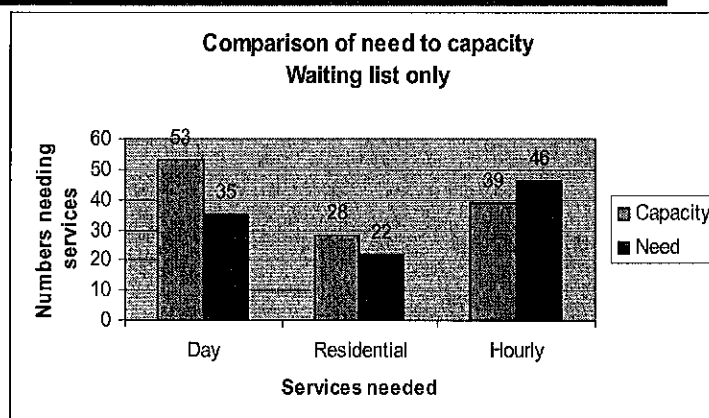
Overview of Services



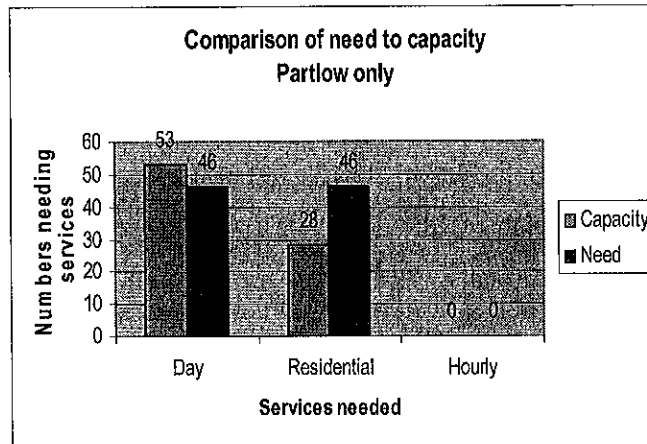
Waiting List



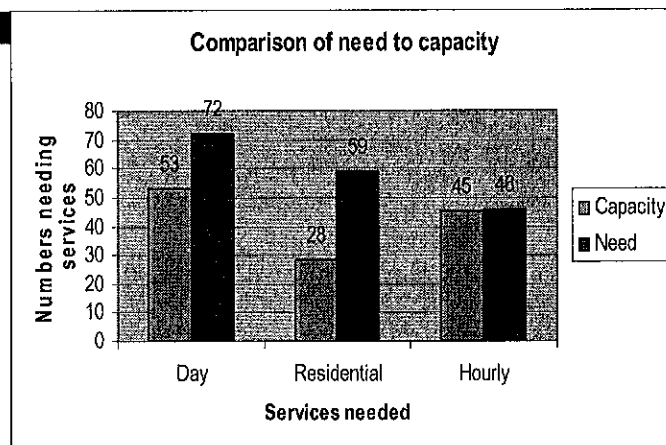
Need to Capacity Waiting list only



Need to Capacity Partlow only



Comparison of Need to Capacity



What have we accomplished to date?

- Transportation

- Expanded transportation initiatives
 - Expanded JARC funding for Dial a Ride-
 - Together We Ride-
 - Developmental Disabilities Grant
 - 24 month Job Access Reverse Commute Grant/New Freedom
 - Transportation Co-ops
 - Car purchases
 - Driver's Education Classes
 - Transportation Stipends
 - Public Awareness Initiatives-Bowl a Thon- Tommy Wilcox Clay Shoot

Who are the providers?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Indian Rivers | • Eagles Wings |
| • Volunteers of America | • Smith Care |
| • Resources for Independence | • Behavior in Training to Youth, Inc. |
| • Futures | • Petra Inc. |
| • RHOC | • Connecting Hearts |
| • Life Enrichment | • Arc of Tuscaloosa |
| • United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama | • Ability Alliance of West Alabama |
| | • Easter Seals of West Alabama |
| | • Harkins CRF |

Hourly Services

- Served 50 New People since August 2006
- Added new providers and self-directed service options
 - Arc
 - Connecting Hearts
 - 6 Families and individuals are receiving self-directed services
 - Resources for Independence

Supported Employment

- Intake Coordinator has added a discussion of ADRS services to the process
- Personal Care in the work place is discussed with new referrals
- AAWA staff has attended workshop on transitioning day services to employment
- AAWA staff have attended Council on Quality Leadership training on promoting community and personal outcomes
- AAWA has employed two additional individuals with disabilities since October 2006

Community Membership

- Dial a Rides continues to provide individuals transportation to community events
- Volunteering in the community has been facilitated through Nation of Joiners and People First
- Volunteer events have included Ka-Boom Playground build, Kentuck Festival, Dickens, and Men Who Cook
- A Safety in Homes and community Grant has provided Safety Awareness training for high school students, Disability Sensitivity Training for Law Enforcement Officers, and published a resource list for crime victims in cooperation with Turning Point
- AAWA has co-directed the Partners With A Twist project to promote leadership for individuals with disabilities, families and allies

Transition

- Case managers have received training in resources and supports
- Self-directed services are being offered to encourage employment, home ownership and community membership

Parent Education

- Case managers have received additional training in supports and services available to promote community membership and employment

Pluses in our local area identified from last years process and over the past year

- Work with local law enforcement around disability issues
- Individuals and families are serving on boards in our local area
- People First is active
- Autism support groups
- Agencies have access to technology
- Abundance of day habilitation service

Pluses in our local area identified from last years process and over the past year

- Adequate residential services
- Somewhat timely response to crisis
- Waiting list is minimal
- Transportation initiatives in Tuscaloosa
- Supported employment
- Community membership supports

Minuses

- Competition with state facilities for staff
- Limited employment opportunities for individuals served
- Limited supported living providers
- Continued support for transportation
- Limited supports for youth in transition
- Limited Parent Education supports

Minuses

- Positive Behavioral Supports resources
- Hourly services support providers
- Economy
- Increasing Medicaid costs
- Possible cuts in funding for this year
- Reduction in funding for case management services

Update to our priorities

- Transportation
- Hourly Supports
- Supported Employment
- Community Membership
- Transition
- Parent Education

How did we gather input into the plan

- Meetings with individuals and families served were held on:
- A Meeting with providers were held
- The agency mailed out surveys to individuals and families served

Comments and concerns:

- Individuals and Family members identified their top priorities as;
 - Transportation
 - Employment Supports
 - Housing Supports
 - Behavioral Support
 - Community membership
 - Friends
- Providers
 - Behavioral support and crisis stabilization resources
 - Closing of Partlow
 - Waiting list
 - Funding for current services
 - Use of local match

Comments and concerns:

- **AAWA**
 - Reorganize services in response to reduction in funding for case management
 - Provide personal growth opportunities for staff

Actions AAWA will take in response to priorities:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Transportation<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Administer Together We Ride Transportation Grant-JARC 5316 and New Freedom 5317 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Employment Supports<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continue referrals to ADRS at admission● Continue meetings follow up meetings with ADRS● Consider becoming a provider of job development and job coaching services for those individual who wish to self direct their services |
|---|---|

Actions AAWA will take in response to priorities:

- Housing Supports
 - Continue to advocate for individuals to live in their own homes
 - Provide self-directed supports for individuals who wish to hire their own staff and live in apartments or homes they own
- Community membership
 - Continue to support individuals in volunteering at Kentuck on an annual basis
 - Continue to support People First
- Behavioral support and crisis stabilization resources
 - Establish a task force to design a service to address this issue

Actions AAWA will take in response to priorities:

- Closing of Partlow
 - Advocate for increasing transition efforts to move individuals to the community
- Waiting list
 - Advocate for individuals to be served on the waiting list
- Funding for current services
 - Advocate for the use of local match and or additional funding for supports
 - Advocate for local control over resources.

Actions AAWA will take in response to priorities:

- **AAWA**
 - Reorganize services in response to reduction in funding for case management
 - Lay off 4 FTE Staff positions
 - Reorganize caseload to average of 48
 - Develop strategies for streamline operations
 - Provide personal growth opportunities for staff and opportunities for the development of social capital
 - Staff retreat
 - Consider becoming a part of the disaster response team in the community
 - Attend Chamber Events
 - Provide opportunities for staff to attend conferences if funding allows.

ABILITY ALLIANCE OF WEST ALABAMA

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to positively affect the quality of life for persons with intellectual disabilities by helping to ensure that appropriate and quality services are available and accessible throughout their lifespan.

History

In the early 1990's, interested people around the state began a concerted effort to improve services for individuals with intellectual disabilities. In 1994, AAWA began operations as the Tuscaloosa Mental Retardation Authority, a public not for profit organizations authorized under Act 310 of the Alabama Legislature. The agency was established in response to the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation's efforts to improve community based services to individuals with intellectual disabilities in the Tuscaloosa area. Responsibilities included planning, coordination and monitoring of community based services. In 2003, the agency assumed responsibility for these services for Bibb and Pickens County. In 2004, the agency changed its name to Ability Alliance of West Alabama. This name change occurred as a result of the request by individuals served to remove the offensive term mental retardation from our name.

How can you make a Difference?

Your tax-deductible donation can help to ensure the continued availability and expansion of services provided that are not covered through funding from the Department of Mental Health and Medicaid Waiver Funds and other federal and state grants. Donations and volunteer efforts may be used to support transportation services through Together We Ride and to fund emergency and other supports and services needed by individuals served. Ability Alliance can also utilize volunteers. If you would like to make a difference through a donation or by volunteering please contact us.

ABILITY ALLIANCE OF WEST ALABAMA

1002 McFarland Boulevard
Suite K
Northport, Alabama 35476

Telephone.....205-333-1577
Intake Ext206
Together We Ride Ext.....213
Fax205-333-2904

Or

Visit us online at:

www.abilityalliance.info



Ability Alliance of West Alabama



Promoting full inclusion
of individuals with
disabilities in our
community.

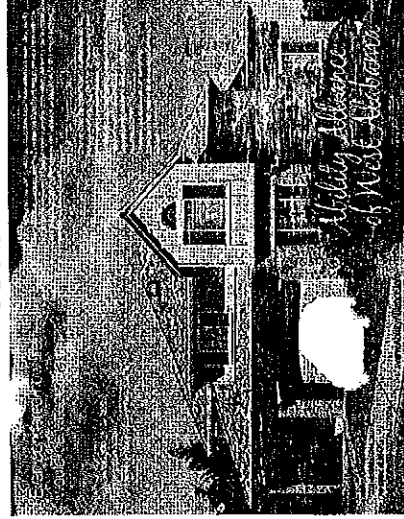
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Services

1. Single Point of Entry into the Division of Intellectual Disabilities of the Department of Mental Health
 2. Assessment and Evaluation for eligibility determination and placement on the waiting list for Intellectual Disabilities Division Services and Medicaid Home and Community Based Services
 3. Case Management and Follow along services
 4. Self and Family Directed Personal Care Services
 5. Together We Ride Mobility Management
- Contact our Intake Coordinator to see if you qualify.

Together We Ride

Ever wondered how life would be without your car?
How would you get to work, to the grocery store, visit your friends and family or get to the doctor's office when you're sick?



People with disabilities face these questions daily.
Ability Alliance of West Alabama
Together We Ride provides transportation supports so individuals with disabilities can be a part of our community.

Together We Ride supports include:

- ✓ Mobility Management to assist individuals in accessing transportation resources
- ✓ Door-to-Door Transportation (Dial a Ride)
- ✓ Transportation Stipends to encourage care ownership and transportation co-ops
- ✓ Drivers Education
- ✓ Accessible mini-van rentals and use by taxi services and non-profits

Together We Ride is funded through a Job Access Reverse Commute and New Freedom Grant from the US Department of Transportation. This grant is administered by the Alabama Department of Transportation and in October of 2009 will be administered by the Department of Senior Services.

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ALABAMA